

# The Observer

opinion news features sports stuff

## Special Edition • 34th Annual Little 500



photo courtesy of Mike Delporte

### Graduation Weekend Schedule

#### Friday, May 9

Graduation Portraits: 10:00 am-3:00 pm, Halleck N. Lounge.

Senior Brunch: 11:00 am-1:00 pm, Halleck Ballroom.

Senior Softball Tournament: 2:00-4:00 pm, IM Field.

Senior Dance: 9:00 pm-1:00 am, Halleck Ballroom.

#### Saturday, May 10

Lake Banet Picnic: 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Lake Banet.

Baccalaureate Mass: 5:00 pm, Fieldhouse.

President's Reception/Dance: 9:00 pm-1:00 am, Ballroom.

Senior Slide Show, 10:00 pm, Halleck Ballroom.

#### Sunday, May 11

Buffet Brunch: 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Halleck Cafeteria.

Commencement Ceremony: 1:00 pm, Chapel Lawn

Graduates' Reception: Core Building Foyer, immediately following Commencement Ceremony.

- compiled by Becky Johnson

### Three share valedictorian honors

by Ashley Pierce

Saint Joseph's College class of 1997 has three valedictorians, Brian DiPaolo, Emily Karol and Mandy Long.

DiPaolo is a chemistry major with a minor in geology from Michigan City, Indiana. Next year, he plans on attending the University of Notre Dame. "I'll begin their Ph.D. program in August," commented DiPaolo. He is also getting married in June.

Karol is a political science major and a communications minor. She has been involved in numerous campus activities. Karol is currently in charge of the

entertainment segments on Channel 6 News and is also the sports editor for the Observer. Her plans for the future are to get into local or state politics, "hopefully in the area of media relations or public relations," noted Karol. Other possible options include becoming involved in TV as a reporter or becoming an editor.

Long is double majoring in biology and chemistry. She is searching for a job in research, possibly with Indiana University. She is married and lives in Pendleton, Indiana. During her four years at Saint

Joseph's, Mandy has been involved in amphibian research with Dr. Brodman, and was a summer intern for Eli Lilly.

One valedictorian had some helpful advice to offer other students. DiPaolo explained, "The advice I have for other students is to remember to keep focused on the task at hand. It's really easy to get side-tracked." He added that students should try to keep everything in perspective. "Don't let one bad test or paper ruin your semester; in the whole scheme of life that test or paper probably won't mean a lot."

## To the Editor:

Inspired by Chad Pulver's letter in the last issue of *the Observer*, I must add some important information to the story you ran on page 5 ("*Grant Strengthens Core*"). Your story covered the 10% icing and left out the 90% cake represented by this Lilly-funded project (\$199,966 from Lilly + \$45,000 from the College).

The three PRIMARY projects in this grant deal with strengthening, teaching, and learning in Core. In the three-year project, we will spend an entire year each doing faculty development work on these three points:

- 1) expanding professors' ability to work in an INTERDISCIPLINARY program;
- 2) developing our understanding of and ability to work with the Christian Humanist world view in core; and
- 3) upgrading the faculty's planning and pedagogical skills that are required in this type of program.

The trip to India amounts to almost exactly 10% of a development project wherein 90% applies to each and every Core segment that is taught here. Thus, the grant project really does aim to strengthen ALL of Core and not just a small portion of it.

Thank You,

Dr. John Nichols

Professor of Philosophy

Fr. Timothy McFarland

Professor of Theology

## Letters to the Editor



## To the Editor:

This is in response to the "Letter to the Editor" article in the April 10th issue of *The Observer*. The article by Chad Pulver touches on a subject that affects everyone here at St. Joseph's College and that is education. First of all, I was offended by the letter and I have thought about my practices as a student. This letter is not a personal attack, but rather a re-evaluation of the way Mr. Pulver painted the situation.

Chad wrote, "It has been very evident to me that stu-

dents seem to gravitate towards the weakest and the least challenging road to the sheepskin as possible." I find this statement to be false because the students are here to choose a subject that stimulates them and just because that subject may be considered easy to some is no reason to condemn them. I have been at SJC for four years and I have heard about the workload of some majors such as Bio/Chem. I would consider them more challenging than my major which is communi-

## Final Farewell from the Editor

by Klaudia Janek

I've been told by my staff to write one last article before I graduate. So, I've been racking my brain trying to come up with something pertinent to write about. I decided to write about some of the changes this paper has gone through over the last four years.

I started out Freshman year as a reporter covering news. I also started writing some opinion pieces, which launched the beginning of my many newspaper controversies. I received my first criticism that year, which made me cry but toughened me up for the next three years of constant criticism.

My favorite opinion that I wrote was the one about "Soviet Communism Invades SJC." The Administration wasn't too thrilled about it, but lots of other people enjoyed reading it. The article was the perfect combination of opinion and satire that made enough students think about policy changes, and one that still comes up in conversations.

I also remember going through my idealistic environmentalist phase. I wrote an environmental column and thought I could make people more aware of the things happening to our earth. That phase ended and left me quite cynical, but I'm still a cynic with hope!

The newspaper itself has gone through many improvements over the last 4 years. We changed the name from STUFF to *The Observer*, we were allowed to sell ads again, we included more news and in-depth research, and we've improved the layouts. All of these improvements have made *The Observer* a more professional publication.

I have to thank all the editors: Liz Lieb, DeAnn Hazzard, Emily Karol, and Mike Nichols for doing such a great job this year. This is the best newspaper staff I have ever worked with. I wish *The Observer* luck in the future and hope that people continue to enjoy this student publication.

cations, but does that mean I am any less of a person for choosing a subject I love?

Chad also mentioned, "I do not comprehend the lack of motivation by students of most colleges and universities. The speed at which the 'cake' classes are filled on campus, but specifically this campus, amazes me."

No where in this section of the letter or any section for that matter does he show evidence of the lack of motivation by students, or list what

the 'cake' classes are. How does one prove the relationship between 'cake' classes and those who take them as having a lack of motivation anyway?

He continues, "Professors that are known for not assigning work, not administering exams and being oblivious to the textbook are encouraged by the student population by obvious registration trends." I agree that some teachers classes close out before (cont. on page 4)

## Cheers and Jeers at SJC

- \*Cheers to Little 500
- \*Cheers to Grotto cleanup
- \*Cheers to all graduating Seniors
- \*Cheers to the Mr. Puma contest
- \*Cheers to the Gallagher Softball Tournament
- \*Cheers to the Bennett/Justin Volleyball Tournament
- \*Cheers to summer vacation starting in two weeks
- \*Cheers to *Star Trek: First Contact* in the auditorium
- \*Cheers to a great Senior Dinner
- \*Cheers to the new Career/Counseling Center

- \*Jeers to Bob Dole for lending \$300,000.00 to Newt Gingrich
- \*Jeers to finals week
- \*Jeers to computer lab printers for not working when you need them
- \*Jeers to whomever broke glass on Bennett's beach volleyball court
- \*Jeers to winter weather in the middle of April
- \*Jeers to the Housing signup process
- \*Jeers to saying good-bye to everyone
- \*Jeers to working all summer

Editor-in-Chief  
Klaudia Janek

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DeAnn Hazzard

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Klaudia Janek

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**Letters to the Editor:**  
Letters must be between 350-500 words. They must be signed and include a telephone number. If the author of the letter does not want his/her name used, include a pseudonym to be printed. The Editorial Board can elect not to print a letter that conflicts with or violates the newspaper Editorial Policy or College Doctrine. Editors reserve the right to edit letters for length. Letters can be e-mailed to Klaudia Janek or dropped off in our mailbox in the Core Building.

## Grotto cleanup: a community effort

by Natalie Berenda

As we are about to wrap up yet another semester, many students are facing a great deal of stress. So here is a suggestion. Take that anxiety out to the Grotto and relax, meditate, or simply take a moment to look at the beauty of the establishment.

The Lourdes Grotto was established in the late 1800's by the seminarians. In recent years, Father Charles Rueve has been the main caretaker of the Grotto.

Nearly five years ago, M.J. Shannon came to the campus and volunteered to help Father Rueve with his task. The first summer she was here, they pulled out all of the weeds. The following summer they started planting the plants and flowers that we see

now.

Since that time, Father Rueve and Shannon have maintained the Grotto by

bulbs so as to make students' walks to class a little more pleasant.

Rueve and Shannon start their work in the grotto early in the spring and keep it up until late in the fall.

This year, the football team volunteered their time to help clean up the Grotto. They were out on Monday, April 21 doing tasks such as raking leaves and picking up sticks.

"The football team is happy to do their part so the beauty of the campus remains outstanding," stated head football coach Brendan Flaherty.

"I think many students have tremendous respect for that area of campus. They recognize that it is

a holy place where they can go to pray and meditate," MJ Shannon stated.

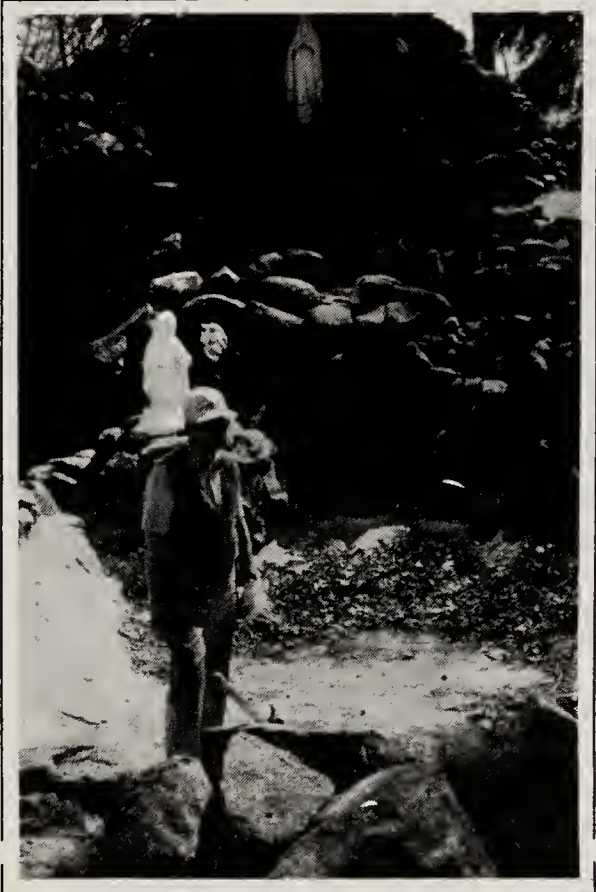


photo by Elizabeth Lieb

Father Rueve works to clean the Grotto pond.

keeping the leaves and twigs picked up. Each year they try to plant new flowers and

## Governor to speak at commencement

by Ashley Pierce

Indiana governor Frank O'Bannon has been chosen as this year's graduation speaker.

O'Bannon was elected as Indiana's 47th governor on November 5, 1996 and was inaugurated on January 13, 1997. Previously, as Evan Bayh's running mate, O'Bannon was elected as lieutenant governor in 1988 and again in 1992.

As lieutenant governor, O'Bannon served on several committees. He was the Director of the Indiana Department of Commerce, Commissioner of Agriculture and

President of the Indiana State Senate. He also created several programs, such as Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) and Training 2000, which are programs designed to help people in the workforce.

Before being elected lieutenant governor, O'Bannon served as a legislator in the Indiana State Senate for 18 years. As a state senator, he represented eight counties in southern Indiana and was elected as the senate's Democratic Floor Leader from 1979 to 1988.

While serving in the Indi-

ana Senate, O'Bannon was chairman of the O'Bannon Publishing Company in Corydon, which publishes weekly newspapers. He also practiced law in Corydon.

O'Bannon has lived in Indiana for most of his life. He grew up in Indiana, graduating from Corydon High School in 1948 and earning his bachelor's degree in government from Indiana University in 1952. After his graduation, he served in the US Air Force for two years and then returned to Indiana University to earn a law degree in 1957.

## College develops strategic plan

by Julia Garcia

On March 14, 1997, the second draft of the strategic plan for Saint Joseph's College was released. The plan was submitted by the Institutional Planning and Priorities Council which has worked for about a year on developing this blueprint for the next four years (1996-2000).

The first issue discussed is the College's promise to "maintain and strengthen academic programs." Under this issue is the plan to add faculty that will "strengthen the Roman Catholic/liberal arts character of the College". Another goal is to increase the holdings of the library.

The second strategic issue is a plan to "intensify the Roman Catholic-ecumenical character of the College." As part of this plan, the College intends to "increase opportunities for spiritual development".

The third strategic issue involves a plan to recruit and retain more students.. By the year 2001, the College intends to increase the freshman class to 275 from 1996's 200 students. Through plans to retain more students, the College intends to increase student enrollment gradually.

The fourth strategic plan is to "strengthen all areas of student life, including athletics, to provide opportunities for whole person development for resident and commuting students". Under this issue is a plan to upgrade residence halls and encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities. The College also intends to strengthen the athletic programs.

The fifth strategic issue is a plan to "assure institutional viability through increased interaction between the offices of Business Affairs and Institutional Advancement and through excellent stewardship of facilities and resources". This includes plans to boost the morale of faculty and staff, enhance communication between departments, and increase support from benefactors.

A copy of the plan can be picked up in Student Affairs, and any questions or comments can be directed to Professor John Groppe. An open forum discussing the strategic plan will be held on April 28 at 3:30 in the Shen Auditorium.

## US Representative speaks

by Elizabeth Lieb

United States Representative Anne Northup spoke in the Courtney Auditorium on April 14. She was elected to the House of Representatives in November of 1996, and is one of eighteen female Republicans in the House. Northup, mother of junior Josh Northup, is a representative of Kentucky's Third District, and a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Northup graduated from St. Mary's College in South Bend with a degree in economics and business. She was a member of the Kentucky General Assembly for nine years.

She spoke of the challenges of the job and the problems of being recognized everywhere she goes. Because of campaign commercials on TV, she is well-known locally. She is constantly asked questions about her job and her views, even during trips to the grocery store.

Northup has two offices, one in Washington and one in Louisville. She described it as "having two lives." A typical day involves speeches, committee meetings, and meetings with interest groups and lobbyists. Some days, each lobbyist has only twelve minutes to present his or her case.

# Dorm fine system explained; changes discussed

by Peg McLeish

The issue of dorm fines tends to bring up heated conversation and a strong sense of frustration on the part of most students at Saint Joseph's College. The system that is currently in place can be quite confusing and mysterious to many. The reasoning behind the system is not so difficult to understand, however.

The dorm fine system that is currently utilized was enacted to bring down the amount of vandalism which occurred on Saint Joseph's campus. Since the current system was begun approximately ten years ago, damages and vandalism have been significantly reduced campus-wide. According to the Student Affairs office, the fines are to act as a deterrent for other possible future damages and vandalism on campus.

The process by which a

fine develops begins with damage done on campus. The damage, whether intentional or not, is reported by the janitorial staff as a work order for repair. The paperwork then done includes the amount of time that it took to repair or clean up the damages, as well as any material replacement costs. The labor is figured as a charge by quarter hours at an hourly rate of \$8.00. This labor amount is added to the material costs, which are provided by the physical plant. A 10% override charge is then added to the figure to cover the possible fluctuation in material costs. Thus, the official fine is created. When the charges are added within a list for an individual floor, an overall 10% disciplinary fine is included.

If the responsible individual can be identified, the charge is directed at that per-

son. If a particular individual cannot be identified, the charge is divided among the members of the certain floor or dorm within which the damage occurred.

Where the money goes when it is paid by the students becomes a very complicated matter. The money does not go directly to the janitorial staff, as would be expected from a "labor charge". The funds go into a separate account from which, at the discretion of the office of Student Affairs, money may later be taken for facilities. The dorm fine revenue, however, does not go to either the janitorial staff who actually perform the labor nor does it directly go to replenish the supply of materials at the physical plant to repair later damages.

The system is now being discussed before the Student Life Committee, and possible

changes may be made in the future. Discussions include removing the final 10% disciplinary fine. Ideas are also being considered for finding an alternative ways to pay for the damages, or possibly another system by which to charge the students. A comparative study will be conducted with other colleges as to paying for damages on campus.

If you have a problem with a fine that your floor or dorm has received, there is no formal appeals procedure to follow. However, the recommended process would be to first contact Campus Life. After Campus Life, appeals can be brought to Chris Zanowski, Assistant VP for Student Affairs. If you still disagree with a fine, take your concerns to VP for Student Affairs, Bill Maniscalco. If all else fails, take your problem to President Shannon.

## news briefs

ACES and the Boys and Girls Club are sponsoring the first annual "Shoot the Puma" 3-on-3 basketball tournament on Saturday, May 3. The cost for each team is \$20, and there will be men's and women's divisional play from 8 am to 5 pm. For more information, call extension 5106 or 8091.

Bennett and Justin Halls sponsored a sand volleyball tournament the weekend of April 18-20. The double elimination tournament was played on Saturday and Sunday. The winning team consisted of Kami Conlon, Katy Kingery, Mike Moore, and Dennis Nowaczyk.

### (Opinion cont.)

others, but for different reasons. I have had Father Froelich for two semesters and know that his classes are the first to close. I am sure that the vast majority of the student body would conclude that he is the easiest teacher on campus and I have even heard Father say that himself. Well, let me be the first one to say that I have had more genuine and productive discussions in his class than any other. I have been more motivated and educated by him than any other Core teacher and I wasn't even interested in the subject matter to begin with. In conclusion, just because teachers may not assign work, administer exams, or be oblivious to the textbook doesn't make them bad teachers.

It was written that "Classes or professors that do not inspire or force the student to perform well should be critically reevaluated."

This makes it sound like the only way to teach today is to strap students to an electric chair. The student has to want to learn and if a teacher lacks inspirational skills then my question is, "Which teachers are they and in what way do their skills lack?"

Further along Chad writes, "Students should seek an educational surrounding that will be of use in the future not conducive to the best life that focuses around Natural Light, Playstation, and Party of Five." I understand the concern, but this is blowing everything out of proportion. If I read this correctly, what Chad is saying, is that people who drink beer, play video games and watch soaps will not be of use in the future. I don't know about you, but I think those three categories describe 90% of American college students as well as those already in the work force.

Teachers have been around since the beginning of time. Every day people are educated both in and outside of the classroom, and the only thing that has changed about their teaching style is technology (computers, books, overheads, blackboards, etc.) How can it be concluded that the only possible way to convey information is for the teacher to develop some universal, fail-safe method. After all, Chad writes, "We, as students, do not expect the professor to be all knowing."

There are two kinds of people in this world, those who teach and those who learn. Some people may play the game of life different than others, but different doesn't make them better. Education is extremely important to the survival of our world, but I feel that it should be evaluated from a universal standpoint, not an individual one.

Charles Barrett  
New Orleans

### To the Editor:

Many times young and old people make a mistake. I made a mistake on the night of March 1, 1997. I made a comment to a girl that night which was rude and offensive. I was drinking when I made this comment and I definitely did not mean it. I want people to know that I am sorry. I hope those people forgive me and realize that I am not like that. I hope you accept my apology because I did not mean what I said. I was just a stupid kid who had a few beers that made a mistake. Sincerely,  
Brad Mesik

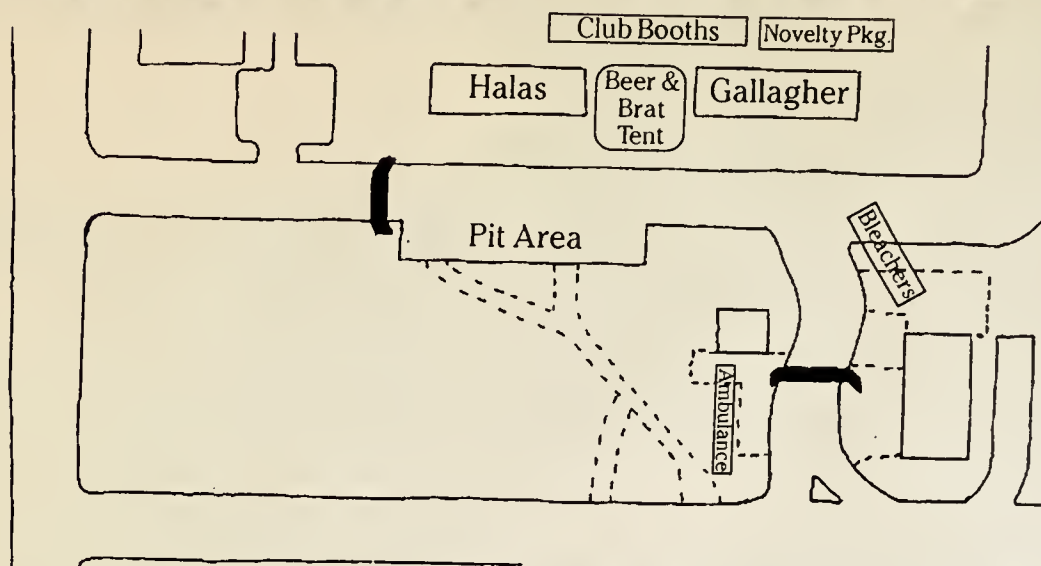
### To the Editor:

I would like to give recognition to Julie Lanoue, Sara Klocek, and Marty Corley who attended the 1997 National Convention of the National Association for Campus Activities in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on February 22-25, 1997. Thousands of college and university student representatives from all over the United States were in attendance. However, of all those in attendance, I don't believe anyone worked harder than the three student representatives from Saint Joseph's College. Their days started at 7:30am and often did not end until 2:00am the following morning. They successfully booked nearly all the entertainment acts they wanted for the 1997-98 academic year. Our arrival in Philadelphia was a bit bumpy, but things got straightened out and we ended up having a great time. It was a fun, exciting, and very successful trip that will benefit all students on this campus.

--P.K. Mathew, Acting Coordinator for SA

Charles Barrett  
New Orleans

# The Race Course



## History of Little 500

Taken from 1996  
Little 500 program

The sporting event that you will witness this weekend is the culmination of thirty-three years of planning, hard work, innovation, and most of all, good-natured, all out fun! The Student Council Vice-President, Mitch Kaminski '63, first had the brain storm. He felt that students needed a weekend of relaxation and procrastination before the onset of finals and graduation. Many agreed with him. Consequently, the Little 500 was initiated by the Saint Joseph's College Student Association.

For a time a 500-mile race was considered. Quickly those involved in the planning opted instead for 500 minutes. That was still more than eight hours! The race was to consist of "karts:" home-made wooden chariots powered solely by people. The course would wind around the Science Building, and was sarcastically dubbed, "The Appian Way."

In the first race, individual dorms built the rudimentary karts and ten energetic (or in other words, crazy and masochistic students pushed). These students alternated in teams of three, one always

riding in or on the kart in order to steer. Courting cardiac arrest, these students pushed the karts as fast as they could for the full 500 minutes. The first kart to cross the finish line with the highest number of laps in the allotted time received the sum of \$50; second place finishers collected \$30; third place qualifiers were awarded \$20.

The Little 500 was an enormous success from day one. By 1965, it had expanded into a weekend of events that centered around the race. Moreover, the race had undergone revision. Thankfully for many, the race was shortened to a mere four hour ordeal. In addition, time trials were instituted in the growing Little 500 tradition. Lastly, the precedent for women's involvement was set with the first all-female kart entry.

In 1969, the course was modified. Karts were rerouted to circle the Halleck Center. Trophies and jackets supplemented the monetary prizes for the first time. And a panel of impartial judges was established in order to ensure that the race was professional and fair in nature.

In 1970, the Little 500 made the historical step of motorization. Local businesses helped with this transition by providing funding, fuel, and often mechanical work. The speed and the danger caused by the motorized karts paralleled the previous body sacrificing of the torturous foot race. 1972's winner logged a record of 179 laps and was clocked at speeds of up to 60 miles per hour.

The old quarter-mile route around Halleck gave way in 1973 to a seven-tenths of a mile course which ran south from Gallagher to Justin, east behind the Grotto, north past the Water Tower in a long straightaway, and finally west in front of the Science Building.

The track was fenced in for the first time, and official passes were distributed to those involved in the race; only those with passes were permitted inside of the fenced in area. As a further safety precaution, as well as to ensure fairness, the race committee initiated mandatory pre- and post-race engine inspection. And as a final measure, an ambulance was made available as well.

As the years passed, higher technology in the sport of go-kart racing began to appear. In 1980, the race saw an overhead cam Honda literally blow the rest of the 4 horsepower field away. With this appearance of the advanced engine power, the rules were once again revised. The committee decided to provide standardized engines to the drivers in order to ensure that the race would be more competitive. Moreover, the competition would be about driving ability, not about who had the most money.

By 1983, aerodynamics had become an important aspect of the race. Nose cones, side pods, and enduro karts were employed. And again the rules were reevaluated to accommodate these changes. In the following years, weight minimums, height maximums, and length requirements were set.

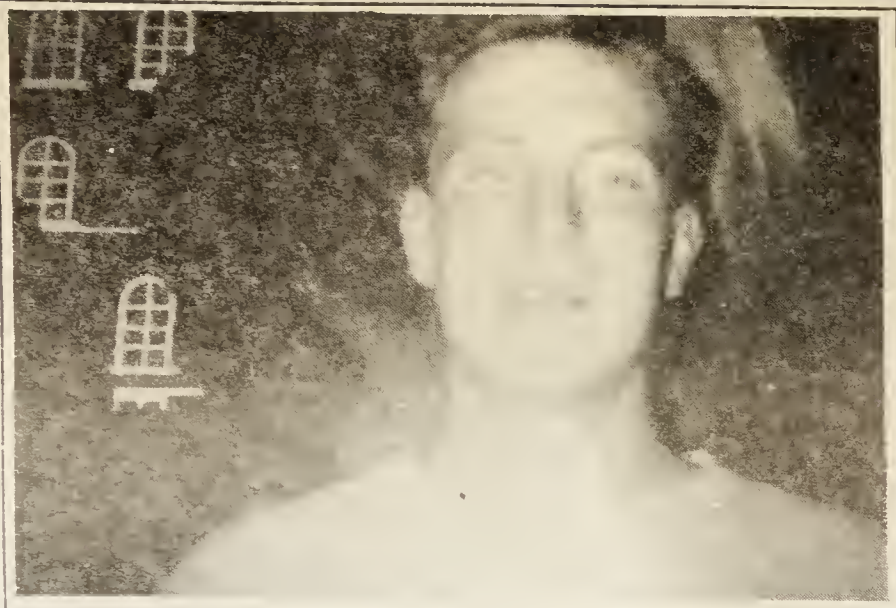
Circa 1987, two pedestrian bridges were added to allow spectators to cross the track safely. The 25th Anniversary Race saw times shortened yet again; the race time was cut down to a mere two hours. Chicanes ("S" curves)

were a part of the race by 1987 as well.

Today, instead of trophies or jackets, plaques are awarded. The monetary prizes are a whopping \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, and \$150 for third place. Strict rules regulate kart, race suit, and helmet specifications, even the pit crew attire! The weekend celebration has expanded to include five days, and events such as; the Mr. Puma contest, the crowning of the Little 500 Queen, various bands, booths, carnival events, a beer and brat tent, and a Little 500 parade.

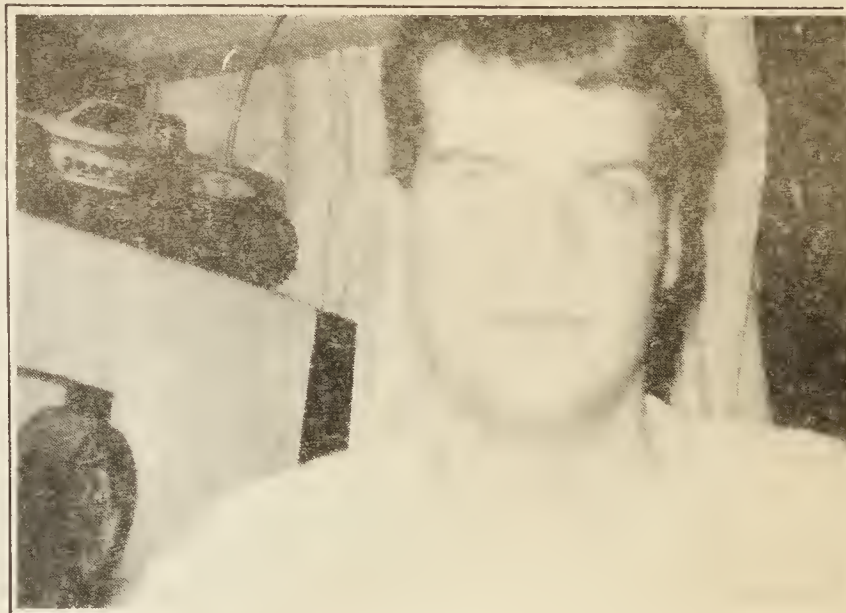
Many people are involved in some aspect of planning, coordinating, or participating in this event. Most of the burden falls, however, on the Little 500 Chairperson, who takes on the semester long, complicated and full-time job in addition to his or her busy college schedule.

Thanks to the Little 500 Chairperson and the efforts of all the hard working students, administrators, and employees, the Annual Little 500 is a community effort. It is an event that is uniquely Saint Joseph's College.



Bryan Strasburger Major - MMIS  
Earl Park, Ind. 2nd year racing  
Year - Senior

## Meet the Drivers of



Sean Shannon  
Rensselaer, Ind.  
Year - Senior  
Major - Elem. Ed.  
1st year racing

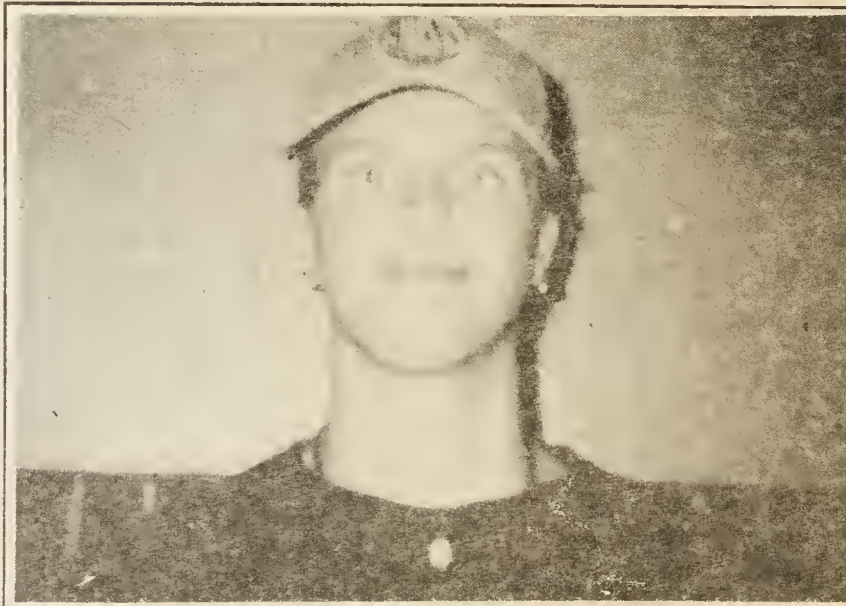
Reason for driving: "An alumni offered me a car, asked me if I wanted to drive and I said yes."



Brian Outlaw Major - Comp. Sci.  
Mesa, Ariz. 1st year racing  
Year - Junior Reason for racing: "Just wanted to give it a try."



Jim Wirtes Reason for racing: "I always wanted to be in the race."  
Merrillville, Ind.  
Year - Senior  
Major - Comm.  
1st year racing



Brad Gellert  
Dyer, Ind.  
Year - Junior  
Major - Int. Bus.  
1st year racing

Reason for racing: "I worked on a pit crew and had a lot of fun. Also, I'm a competitive person."

## Little 500 for 1997



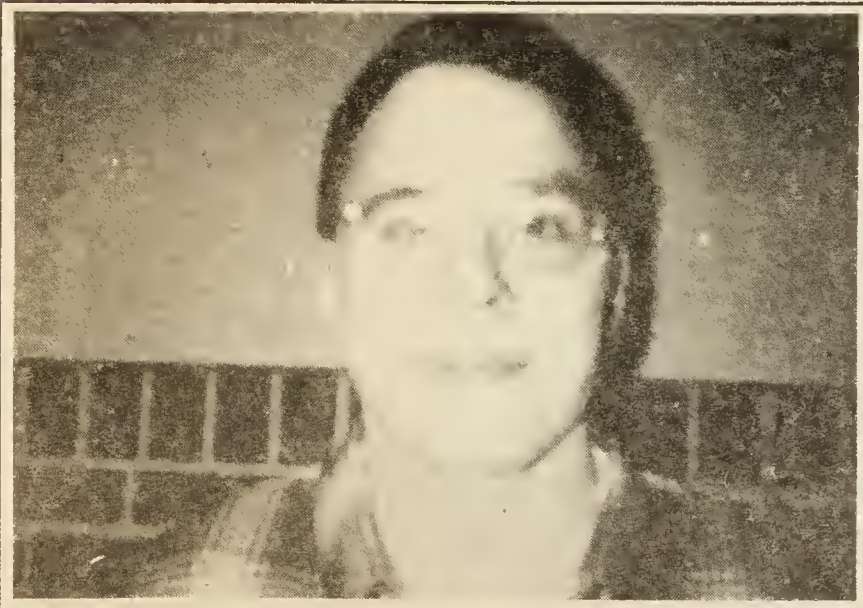
Joseph Becker  
Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Year - Sophomore  
Major - Crim. Just.



Peg McLeish Major - Human Serv.  
Clinton, Ind. 2nd year racing  
Year - Junior Reason for racing: *"I had fun working on a pit crew."*



Mike Delporte Major - History  
Speedway, Ind. 4th year racing  
Year - Senior



Joe Vorrier Reason for being in race: *"It's a lot of fun and quite a learning experience."*  
Palos Hills, Ill.  
Year - Junior  
Major - Mass Comm.



Carrie Edgel Reason for being in race: *"I'm insane."*  
Rock Hill, S. Carolina  
Year - Sophomore  
Major - Biology  
1st year racing

## An Interview: Little 500 Driver-- Mike Delporte

by Randy Wagers

*Why have you been so dedicated to Little 500 every year?*

I was thinking about sitting out freshman year to see how everything was handled, but then Mike Stader talked me into racing, and I've been doing it ever since. I was the only freshman in the race that year and, like every year, we were desperate for drivers. I hoped that being involved in the race I could lure some more people from my class into participating. This race could always use more drivers. I don't want this event to die from lack of participation, and I'm very pleased that so many people are at least interested in driving maybe not this year but in the future. I'm also glad that this year has a nice spread of drivers from all four classes. Right now I still feel that the student race could use more drivers, and I'm thinking of not driving in the alumni race next year so that I could put a student in my kart.

*Are you more of a competi-*

*tive racer or are you in it more for the fun?*

The first two years I was extremely competitive about the race, and I really pushed myself when I wasn't fast. Then I crashed during the 1995 race. I was REALLY trying hard to keep up with drivers like Matt Davy and Ed Balas and I wore myself out before the first pit stop (only 45 minutes into the race). I started driving more and more sloppy and eventually I ran right off the track. I wanted to be so competitive and do so well that I thought about quitting after leaving the hospital because I wasn't living up to my expectations.

For the 1996 race I changed my whole approach and I felt a lot better about driving after that. I still have a strong desire to do well, but if it's not fun at all then there really is no point in doing it.

*What's your favorite Little 5? Why?*

The best Little 5 was last year's race. I was having fun, and trying to keep my nose clean out of the wrecks that day. The kart was handling very well. It was driv-

ing SO much better than it had in any other year! I was just concentrating on the line I was driving through the corners and making myself work as little as possible to save myself for the end of the race. I was running in the middle of the group, in eighth place out of fourteen drivers, two-and-a-half hours into the race.

Then I got caught in a situation where I was passed in a bad spot right before a turn. He was slow coming out of the turn and I either could run hard into the back-end of the kart in front of me, or I could hit my breaks in the middle of turn three and spin.

Well, I hit the brakes, spun, and was hit in the rear tire by another kart. The axle was bent and our day was done. It was a racing accident and it was no one person's fault, but I was so close to finishing that race in a nice position.

It's still hard to swallow, but it was still my best performance. I still want to finish that race, and I have more confidence going into this year's race than I have ever had for any other race.



photo courtesy of Mike Delporte

Delporte and crew preparing for the excitement of last year's Little 500 race.

## Dr. Jack Miller: Grand Marshal for Little 500

by Peg McLeish

The Grand Marshal for the 34th Annual Saint Joseph's Little 500 will be Dr. Jack Miller, the racing dentist. The "Racing Dentist" races in the Indy Racing League, and will be competing in the Indianapolis 500 on May 25, 1997. His practice driving includes racing 100cc Yamaha go-karts and kawasaki motocross bikes.

"Presiding as Grand Marshal for the Little 500 is an honor," Dr. Jack Miller said about the event. In the Indy Racing League, he races a Dallara chassis powered by a 700hp Infiniti V8 engine. He is sponsored by Crest Tooth-

paste and Toothbrushes, thus helping him to raise awareness about oral health.

Dr. Jack Miller will be bringing the Crest Mobile Dental Clinic to Saint Joseph's campus for the day of the race. The vehicle is a 32 ft. clinic on wheels, behind which is pulled the racing car. The dentist makes volunteer appearances across the country with the Crest Mobile Dental Clinic and speaks to people about oral health. By having the dual career of racing and being a dentist, Dr. Jack Miller is able to help many more people than he can at his dental office in Indianapolis, Indiana.

## Little 500... Schedule of Events

### Saturday, April 26--Race Day

- 7-8am...track set-up...ALL track marshals must be there to participate
- 8am...Barns open--leave for track at 8:10...track will be completely closed off
- 7:30-9am...Alumni Pre-Tech, Starting positions assigned
- 8:30am...Combined Student/Alumni driver meeting in Pits
- 9-9:30am...Final Practice for Alumni
- 9:30-10am...Final Practice for Students
- 10-10:30am...Student Qualifications-time permitting
- 10:30am...Alumni Race Line-up
- 10:40am...Alumni Race parade laps begin
- 10:45-11:45am...Alumni Race (student drivers must be track marshals)
- 11:45-12:30pm...Lunch break
- 12:20pm...Student Race Line-up-Opening Ceremonies
- 1:00-3:45pm...1997 Little 500 Student Race
- 4:30pm...Return Karts to Barn.  
Track will be torn down by track-marshals
- 7:30-9pm...Informal Banquet and Awards presentation, Ballroom

# Tobe Awarded Senior of the Year



what you are doing, you are going to do well at it. If you go a t things

formed his supportive community. He thanks Darren Haas for helping him realize how far a positive attitude can bring one. Dave Templin was another great intellectual and philosophical influence. Although Tobe has never had Brian Capouch in class, Capouch has served as an example of an excellent teacher and motivator. Marge McIlwain inspired Tobe by putting her heart so completely into her work and her students. One of his greatest influences was John Ponzuric, who taught him about people from his own experiences. Tobe also wants to thank his own family, Maureen Healey, Cindy Matthews, Klaudia Janek, Bill Lennartz and his family, Laura Witek, Rhonda Churchill, Tami Hubbard, Mandy Long, Chad Novak, Alan Brinker, Domenic Maciariello, Tammy Pottinger, the Men of Bennett and so many other friends at SJC that listing them all in this article is impractical.

Tobe's plans for the future include medical school at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. However, Tobe is reluctant to describe more detailed plans, saying, "I live day to day, and so I take each day as it comes. Whatever I do in life, I want to put my heart into it."

Of Tobe, Tami Hubbard says, "Brian has not only been a special friend to all of us, but he is also a friend of St. Joe. He is the perfect example of, 'You get out of St. Joe what you put into it.' There isn't a person more deserving of this award."

Darren Haas says, "'B' is a lifelong friend who has taught me to diversify my knowledge of people and life, in general." Dave Templin comments, "Everyone who has ever known Brian knows that he is one of the greatest guys on earth. He's helped so many people and been a friend to so many others that he'll be remembered around here for a long time."

half-heartedly, you are going to get half-hearted results."

After four years at SJC, Tobe believes that one of the most important opportunities SJC provides is the chance to realize how much of an impact one can have in someone else's life. He thinks that the residential experience (no off-campus housing, no private showers) helps the students to become entirely social people.

Living closely with others exposes students to the differences they can make and helps them build a Christian Humanism ethos. Tobe says that, "You learn that everybody counts. At Saint Joe everybody that makes it is *somebody* when it gets to the end."

Tobe believes that being willing to change and putting one's heart into one's efforts can help anyone get the most out of his or her time at SJC. He advises that "what goes around comes around. The power of a positive attitude is unbelievable."

Coming from a small rural community eight miles outside of Fort Recovery, Ohio, Tobe believes that many of the ideals that Saint Joe has are the same ideals with which he was raised. Tobe is son of Francis and Eileen Tobe. His siblings include Otto (age 11), Vicki (13), Amy (15), Sara (18), Charlene (20), and Melvin (24). Tobe speaks of a spirit of community in which help is offered without expectation of gain. He says, "I think everyone has people around them who are willing to help, but they just don't realize it."

Tobe gives much credit to the people in his life that have

by Heidi Jugovic

SJC's annual Senior of the Year is Brian Tobe. Well-known as an RA in Bennett, a frequent intramurals competitor, and a campus leader, Tobe has had four very successful years at SJC. This award was in recognition for his many contributions to SJC over his last four years.

Tobe feels honored to have been chosen as Senior of the Year. He comments, "It's nice to know that people take notice of the little things that you do." Tobe believes in the importance of Christian Humanism and the value of service to others.

According to Tobe, one of the greatest strengths of SJC is having a small community of people. Each student has the opportunity to know a lot of people very well and become involved in many different things. One's classmates almost become a second family that provides security and a sense of belonging.

Tobe believes that the SJC community has a strong foundation upon which all the students can build if they would take the time to "take care of the little things that matter" and "take the time to get to know each other better as people." Although SJC has a strong community, this is also an area in which SJC has even greater potential to improve.

Tobe says that the professors at SJC are an excellent example of putting in extra effort to get to know their students. He comments, "I know a host of professors that put more in here than the eight hours a day that they get paid for. Their heart is here. If your heart is in

# Ear Wacks



by Brian Zimmer

When preparing, at the last minute mind you, for this article I listened to three new albums. Those albums were the new Robert Cray Band, Sloan, and Freedy Johnston. All three are pretty good. Being a Robert Cray fan for a few years I believe my hat goes off to that album as being the best of the three.

While deciding how I was going to format the whole article I began reminiscing on how this column started to begin with. That one reason was to promote bands at the college radio level and to hopefully make some kind of impact on people's perceptions of music.

I don't know if I have made any impact in the last couple of years but I would sure like to think so. I have reviewed a lot of albums in many issues of **The Observer**. A lot of those albums were very solid pieces of work. Very few of them ever made an impact in the world of Mtv and commercial radio.

I still stand by the ideal of college radio. The ideal that new artists can get a fair shake at air-play. The thought that there is a much broader format than at a commercial station, mainly because the listeners are much more open minded. Most importantly, for me, is the loyalty that exists in college radio to the artist and his/her music.

The thing that always intrigued me was the fact that in college radio you could feel free to play The Doors with KMFDM and have it work out pretty well. I remember doing that on my radio show on Saturday mornings, and having people call in and say, "Wow! That was weird as hell, but it was pretty cool!" (others just said "go to hell!" but what can

you do?) I can think of no greater satisfaction than that of reaching a person with music. I would love to believe I did that a couple of times.

In four years at WPUM, I have seen a lot of things change (I suppose if your alive and live on this campus, that is true for anybody.) Most things have been good, some have not. More than anything I realized that few people are really passionate about music. Rather than listen to the aesthetics of the music, many people have chosen to follow those few people who find the music to be "a hit." Or even worse they follow what friends or the "in" crowd listens to.

I firmly believe that WPUM-FM, as an independent college station, can do nothing but serve the ears of this campus and town better than any other station. Remember, this is college. A time to explore, a time to reach out and touch new things (or people!), and most importantly a time to find out what it is that YOU enjoy. College radio, if it is doing its job and living up to its potential, will do that. I guarantee it.

Last but not least I wish to say thank you. To everybody that asked my opinion of an album or a band. To everybody that called my radio show on Saturday to request something really original or bold (bold and original?) To everybody who respected my lowly opinion enough to have it shape their outlook on music. To those of you who wondered what the hell is on my head in the picture above and asked about it or took bets on what it was (I will never tell!) Most importantly I would like to thank those of us who have not lost our faith in the beauty of college radio and continue to rock n' roll no matter what. Thank You and Goodnight!

## End of softball careers is bittersweet

by John Osborne

Next Tuesday will mark the end of the Saint Joseph's softball careers of All-Conference Seniors Jill Ogger, Tracey Ziemba, and Michelle Heilman. As their careers and the softball season itself wind down, all the players are trying hard to be positive about this season and optimistic about the one to come.

"We struggled a lot this year to play up to our potential," centerfielder Ziemba said. "We came close to winning so many games, but we had a pretty young team. Hopefully, the younger players will take this season as a learning experience so that they may have a winning season next year."

Ogger, the team's ace on the mound, felt similarly and added that the best things for this team are yet to come. "I'm really disappointed that we didn't do better," she said.

"This is a building year since almost half of the team consisted of freshmen. I think Coach (Mark) Settle did a good job recruiting and there is a lot of talent to be developed."

Junior pitcher Sharon Rhyne also expressed concern that people might look at the team's record and not understand just how unreflective it is of the quality of the team. "Our record is not reflective of how well we often played," Rhyne said. "Our skill level was equal to most of our opponents, but we never could get the big offensive or defensive play when we needed it. Because of that I'm a little disappointed."

The Pumas have two non-conference double-headers left before they are officially finished for the season. They take on Grace College Monday and Huntington on Tuesday.

Each of the three seniors will be sorely missed next year, and they in turn will miss their teammates. Despite the disappointing season, though, they walk away proud they were a part of the program.

"I will miss playing next year, but more importantly I will miss my teammates," said Ziemba, who racked up an All-Conference Academic and All-Conference title in 1995.

With the exception of not beating Lewis University, Ogger, who has an All-Conference Academic title to her credit, also leaves with a lot of good memories. "I will truly miss the friends and fun times I have had on the softball team. My involvement in softball has truly enhanced my experience at Saint Joseph's College. I wish them the best of luck next year."

## Baseball team looks for the light

by Kevin Collins

The Saint Joseph's College Puma baseball team, under the direction of ninth-year head coach Mike Moyzis, is trying to find the light at the end of a dark tunnel.

Coming off a record-setting season in 1996, the Pumas are traveling a little rougher road in '97. In 1996 the Pumas finished with an amazing record of 52-12, won the Great Lakes Valley Conference, and made it all the way to the Division II College World Series in Alabama where they finished second in the country to Kennesaw St.

To this point in the 1997 season, the Pumas have a 22-15 record overall and are 8-9 in the GLVC. This record has the Pumas in the fourth spot in the North Division of the conference. With only twelve regular season games left on the schedule, eight of which are conference games,

the Pumas have worked themselves into a tough position. They will almost certainly have to finish the rest of the season in stellar fashion to assure themselves of any kind of post-season play.

One of the bright spots for the team this year is #34 Rick O'Dette from Tinley Park, IL. As a junior, O'Dette is the premier left-handed pitcher for the Pumas this year. He has pitched the team to seven wins and has a perfect 7-0 record with only a 2.98 earned run average. Freshman, Ryan Reffitt, has also been a positive for the Puma pitching staff. Ryan has a 3-2 record and has shown the ability to pitch his way out of some tough spots.

The Puma pitching staff has been backed up by the usually great Puma defense. The team has a .962 fielding percentage. For the

baseball illiterate, that means they do not make many errors.

The sticks haven't been too bad for the Pumas this season either. Three of the team's best hitters are batting over .400, while several others have batting averages well over .300. Freshman, Brian Stultz has had the best bat for the Pumas in '97. He is hitting an impressive .429 with 24 hits in 56 at bats. Sophomore, Dave Drzonek is hitting a close second with an average .425 and has six doubles.

Senior, Larry Satkoski is the final Puma over .400 with an average of .423. Satkoski leads the team in RBI's (37), doubles (13), home runs (11), and slugging percentage (.813). If the hitting, pitching, and defense are all going well for the Pumas, on any given day they are almost unbeatable.

## A word from... The Sportsland

by Matt "JoJo" Carter

Well, professional basketball's season is almost over. Chances are the Bulls will run away with the championship, again. Ho hum. What a boring year in the NBA. The NFL draft took place a few days ago. Did anyone care? I just sat there and said, "Is this all that is on?" Baseball season is upon us now. What a relief, huh?

If you haven't guessed, I am not that enthused about the baseball scene either. The Cubs, in all their glory, did win a game. What a big day for Chicago. That just means more drunks in Wrigleyville. The Cubs and their fans have just become too accepting of losing seasons.

As someone who doesn't like pro baseball all that much, this just gives me another reason to tune out.

As if I need more reason to whine, Florida spent tons of cash in the off season and is still not that good. What does it take to be good in baseball?

The great American pastime has become, to me, more of an American nap time. Why is baseball so boring? It takes forever. That is not why I have lost the flare for the game, though. I still enjoy watching baseball as much as the next guy. But there is something about pro baseball that makes me sick.

Every time I see a pro baseball player all I can

think of is the strike. It just bothers me to see these guys making millions and taking it for granted. What makes them so special? Why does any baseball player think that they are any different from other athletes?

It is unreasonable for the average Joe to go to a game and come home with less than a \$100 debt on his credit card statement.

I also realize that this is the same story for any pro sport. Going to a live pro game in any sport is out of reach for most of us. So what is my point?

Any chance of me going to a baseball game went away a long time ago. As big a sports fanatic as I am, I rarely go to see any pro sports. I just cannot afford it.

College sports offer so much more. These are people who truly love the game and have some drive. Would you rather pay hundreds to see cocky athletes or pay close to nothing to see an exciting game?

I guess what I am really saying is that the fans who have supported pro sports for years are getting hosed, especially the fans in Chicago. Can you really tell me that the Cubs deserve a dime?

All you get at a Cub's game is warm beer, a sun burn, and long lines at the bathroom.

## Profile: Larry Satkoski working toward future in professional baseball

by Erin Breetzke

Attributing much of his success to the influences others have had upon his life, senior Larry Satkoski has led a successful career as both a student and an athlete. With many opportunities facing him, Larry will surely better himself as life goes on.

Originally from LaPorte, Indiana, Larry is finishing up his marketing major for graduation in May. As a future prospective businessman, he set several goals for himself.

"I would very much like to be successful," Larry commented. "I'm not sure in what direction I'm going to go, but I'd like to be a success in business," he added.

As the middle child in a family of three boys, his character has been formed by the positive reinforcement Larry received from his family as he grew up. "My family has supported me while I grew up and has helped to instill work ethic and the determination I need to succeed. They've taught me to always do my best," he explained.

Though he started out with a love of basketball, Larry soon took up baseball, and has turned it into a successful career.

Larry has played baseball all four of his years here at Saint Joseph's College, and would like to go as far as he can with it in the future (his ultimate goal and dream is being in the major leagues). Currently a captain, he has not only learned things from the team, but he has also contributed to it.

"I try to show them what it takes to get to this level," he explained. "I try to show them the work you have to put into it...the practice. [As a captain] I lead by example, show a good work



ethic that will give something for the young guys to follow to establish in their lives and their careers to become a better player," added.

Larry's teammates appreciate both sides of Larry: the athlete and the person. Because of Larry's dedication to the team, senior catcher Jeff Norus believes success should be his.

"Larry is one of the hardest workers that I have ever played with. It has been a privilege for me to be his teammate," Norus commented. "He deserves all the success that he has had here at Saint Joe's, along with the success he will have in his future baseball career."

As a member of last season's College World Series Runner-up Division II team, Larry's success seems to have grown throughout the years. This includes breaking and setting quite a few

records.

"Last year Dominic Horgeshimer and I both set the single season homerun record at 13," Larry stated. "This is a special honor because Dom is a great hitter and one of the people responsible for helping me accomplish this feat," he explained.

Larry would like to be remembered not just for his records, but for the person and player he was to those around him. "[I'd like to be remembered for] trying to work with anyone who needed help or wanted help, going the extra mile to be successful, and doing anything I could do to be the exceptional player, student, friend and teammate," he stated.

He will always be thankful to his friends and teammates of the past four years. "The last four years have been the best four years of my life due in large part to the friendship and camaraderie of this year's seniors and all that we've been through in our four years at SJC," Larry reminisced.

Larry plans to thank all of those who have helped him in his baseball career by playing well in the future.

"To see me be successful and do the best I can, I think that's my own responsibility to them for all the time and hard work and effort [they put] into helping me reach my potential," he stated. He added, "I want them to know I didn't take their help for granted and I want to show them I didn't waste their time."

## Sports Briefs...

by Jamie Riberto

### Track team finishes third in conference

The second time is a charm! Both the men's and women's track teams finished third in the conference on Saturday, April 19th at Lewis University. This is the team's second time finishing in the top three in the Great Lakes Valley Conference in two years.

All of the athletes ran very well with many setting personal records. The team will return to action on Saturday when they head to Purdue for the last meet of the regular season. Many athletes will continue on from there with the hopes of qualifying for nationals.

### Men's tennis ends season at 10-12

The men's tennis team ended its season by finishing eighth in the conference meet which was held Thursday through Saturday of last week at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The team's final record is ten and twelve.

Some of the member's of the team individual records were junior James Blitzinger (7-11), senior Jude Clover (11-10), senior Jon Chovanec (9-10), senior Darren Haas (15-3), sophomore Casey Kinnaman (13-6), and freshman Rich Schuster (9-10).

In regard to the team's finish at conference, Jude Clover feels that the men really gave it their all, although they did not do as well as they had hoped to. Clover stated, "Judging by our past tennis teams and how they had fared against the GLVC competition, we felt we had a great chance at finishing in the upper echelon of the GLVC. This year's team was filled with talent, leadership, and determination. The truest way to measure a team is whether each individual has improved from last year, which we have physically and statistically done. However, the other GLVC teams have improved as well. The seniors are disappointed that the season is over, but I am not disappointed with the effort and the attitude displayed by this team, and I would not have wanted to be a part of any other."

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## Little 500 Anticipation

by Mike Nichols

Even though I've never experienced Little 500 from the point of view of a Saint Joseph's student, I've always had a connection to the event, first with my father and then during my brother Jon's career as an SJC student. I remember sunny days, loud music, and a lot of people having a good time. Jon lived in Merlini Hall, just as I do now, and back in those days the Shoe Tree provided some shade for spectators to watch the cars careen around the track, desperately attempting to avoid all manner of hazards in their path.

Today, the Shoe Tree is gone, its place usurped by an unsightly mud pit. The course has been altered so that the cars no longer race past Merlini. But after talking to upperclassmen, it seems that some things about Little 500 never change. I used to hear stories from my brother, but good taste and a desire

to protect the guilty as well as the innocent prevent me from printing them here. I remember Jon doing his best to keep me out of Merlini during Little 500, and after seeing what a normal weekend on campus can be like, I can hardly blame him.

From the general tone of the things I've heard, to a lot of people Little 500 is just another excuse to drink.

Without a doubt it will be nice to take a weekend, or at least a good portion of it, off from homework. But the prospect of eighty-five percent of the student body roaming the campus in a drunken haze renders me a little uneasy. On the other hand, perhaps the stories I've heard have been exaggerated. Whatever the outcome though, it appears certain that Little 500 as a full-fledged SJC student will be a memorable experience.



## Now Playing:

### Monon Theatre

*Jungle to Jungle* - 7:30, 9:30 P.M.

### Sony Theatre in Merrillville

*Gross Pointe Blank* - 12:10, 2:40, 5:10 (7:40, 10:10)

*Inventing the Abbotts* - 12:00, 2:30, 5:00 (7:50, 10:00)

*The Devil's Own* - 12:20, 2:50, 5:20 (7:50, 10:20)

*Return of the Jedi* - 12:30, 3:20 (6:20, 9:10)

*Turbo: Power Rangers 2* - 11:50, 2:10, 4:20 (6:30)

### Southlake Mall in Merrillville

*Anaconda* - 1:00, 2:00, 3:10, 4:05, 5:20, 6:20, 7:30, 8:30, 9:10.

## Painting Bridges

by Rachel Barlage

Last year, my roommate and I were conned into painting the pedestrian bridges that are placed over the roads during the Little 500 race. We were asked to paint over old advertisements on the sides of the bridges and draw and paint the new advertisements. My roommate D is artistic, so we decided that she would draw the new ads, and I would paint them. We thought that we would be a few of the many volunteers working on this project, but we soon found that somehow the entire job had fallen into our inexperienced hands.

The bridges are kept in an open barn next to the building where Little 5 drivers work on their cars in the weeks before the race. When we went to paint for the first time, it was freezing. It was very windy, and by the time we left, my hands were numb. On the first day, we used paint rollers to paint over old advertisements. If it hadn't been so cold, that part would have actually been fun. It was definitely the easiest part of our job.

The next step in the process was looking at a four-inch ad and reproducing that ad on a full or half board, depending on how much money the company had contributed. The boards measure approximately eight feet across. This is where it got tricky. We were expected to copy the ad exactly, using the same type of letters, the same scale, and the same layout.

At first, I just watched D's work, but it soon became apparent that it would be impossible for her to do all of the ads before the race. We

had a total of about ten advertisements to measure, draw, and paint.

I reluctantly agreed to attempt an ad myself. I found that it was just as challenging as I had expected it to be. First, I had to find the middle of the board so that I could center the ad properly. I had to measure the space available and then divide it into the number of letters and spaces on a particular line. This is how I determined the scale for the letters. I then marked the board in each place where a letter would begin and end. Finally, using a ruler, I drew

had only one ladder, so one of us had to stand on precariously balanced barrels, holding a can of paint in one hand and the brush in the other. We had only one light, which made it difficult to paint at night, when it was most convenient for us.

The weather was also less than ideal. It was cold and windy throughout the week, so it was not pleasant to paint for long periods of time.

We worked on the bridges all week, putting off homework and even skipping a few classes so that we could finish in time for the weekend.

Although it was hard work, we managed to have a good time. We brought a CD player with us and listened to music when we worked. We sang and danced and had some great conversations.

The work was also very rewarding. I had an overwhelming sense of accomplishment when I was happy with an ad I had finished. Before I painted the bridges, I had thought that I was in-

competent at any type of drawing or visual design, so I was surprised at my ability to do a good job on the ads. It gave me experience with something I had never tried.

We also had the opportunity to see the drivers working on their cars and to be personally involved in the preparation for the race.

Before working on the bridges, I had never thought about who painted the bridges or who set up the bales of hay around the track or who planned the bands and activities for the weekend. The experience helped me to appreciate all of the work that students put into the Little 500.



the letters, attempting to reproduce their shape in the logo we had been given. I did this for each line of the advertisement.

The next step was to paint each of the letters. This was much more fun and took less time than drawing the ad. However, when we returned to the barns the day after painting our first ads, we realized that we would have to use at least two coats of paint to make the words dark enough to stand out. The entire process would have been difficult enough with the proper equipment.

But we didn't have the proper equipment. We